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VISITATION  
Of the  
Fathers Love,  
To all the  
Elect-Children:  
OR AN  
EPISTLE

Unto the Righteous CONGREGATIONS, who  
in the LIGHT are gathered, and are Wor-  
shippers of the Father in Spirit and Truth.

*To be read amongst them in the pure fear of the Lord God,  
when they are Assembled and met together in his Name.*

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By William Smith.

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L O N D O N,

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## A tender VISITATION of the Fathers Love, to all the Elect-Children.

DEAR FRIENDS and BRETHREN,

**T**He day is the Lords, he hath appeared *you to visit,* and unto him *must the gathering be,* his Work is great, his *Arme* is powerful, he hath made it bare, it rules for him, Nations shall know it, and all People shall behold the appearance of his might, he hath dealt with you *in mercy,* and yet is his *Judgments true;* he sought you *in his love* when there was none to help, he saved by his Power when all beheld you and passed by, *who can declare his goodness?* or *who can shew forth his loving kindness?* he hath wrought with his *Arme,* and his *right hand* hath done valiantly, mighty things is come to pass thereby, he found you *in the Wilderness,* and upon *Mountains* scattered, he prepared a way for you, and hath brought you into the *Valleyes;* great things hath he done, and prosperous hath his Work been, this is his Day, long it hath been waited for, and the cry hath been for the appearance of it, it is *now come,* and it is his Work wrought; you that waited for it, and did abide it, are blessed, for dreadful was his appearance whilst the wicked stood in his sight, and as a consuming fire he came to destroy them, that many shrunk from him, and could not abide the day of his coming, but fled from his Righteous Judgments, who had truly waited for his Appearance; his Wrath was hot, and his Stroke was heavy, and his rising was like a man of War, so that his Enemies fell before him, and were scattered by his Arm, the mighty could not stand, but from their seat he brought them down; *he spake and the Earth trembled, he uttered his voice and the Hills melted;* it is you that have beheld his mighty acts, who did abide the day of his coming, and fled not from his Arm of power, but gave his enemies into his hand, and did not love your lives to death; then did you feel the strength of his might, who came in power to redeem his chosen, then did the womb of the morning open,

pen, then did sore travail come upon you, pangs took hold on every side, and great was the cries that then was heard; now was your Deliverance nigh at hand, and his only begotten came into the World, this was the day in which the poor found help, and that of low degree was raised up, then the Prisoner came out of the pit, and the Captive was delivered out of Iron bonds, so did his work prosper in his hand, and deliverance came by his eternal Power, you felt his terrour upon the wicked, and none was able to resist his might, his stroak was heavy on your loynes, and feebleness posselt your reins, for in his wrath he sealed you down, and you languisht in the deep distress; then did you cry *go up unto him*, and the earnest breathed for relief, his bowels yearned to his own, and his love brake forth like a *mighty stream*, his ear was open for to hear, and his Arme ready to deliver, for he remembered his *holy Covenant*, and his own *Inheritance* whom he had chosen, he did not leave you when you were weary, nor forsake you when you were feeble, but in the deep he was your strength, and in your travail he you upheld, so did he lead you in his *Mercy*, and yet his Judgments are all true; you walked in the narrow way, and his Arm of power was your support, he brought you thorow the gate of *Death*, and raised up the seed of *Life*, his love is not to be expressed, nor the works of his hands to be declared, for in the midst of *Judgment* he remembered *Mercy*, and his eye of pitty was open towards you; the Lyon could not prey upon you, his mouth he stopped; the Devourer could not spoile you, him he judged; *Pharaoh* could not keep you, him he Plagued; the Grave could not shut you up, that he opened, and out of the horrible pit he you delivered; then did the poor find help in his *Power*, and the needy was relieved in his *Mercy*, he stretched forth his Arm, and Salvation came, and that was wrought which no other could do, though you had run from man to man, and had enquired after God, and sought to have obtained Peace, yet none could bring true rydings of it, but still you mourned for want of *Life*, and travelled in the anguish of your Spirits, running but obtained not, seeking but could not find, until you was wearied in sore travail, and ready to faint under your heavy burthens; then did you cry in your deep distress, and he heard out of his holy Hill; he made the Fountain open wide, and his Salvation did not tarry,

ry, he gave you ease and made you glad, and brought you into a wealthy place, that your joy in his presence did increase, and the dayes of mourning passed away, for his work in you he brought to pass, and accomplished the thing which he had determined.

Oh Friends, what hath the Lord done for you ! pen cannot write, nor tongue declare ; you were *lost* and he *sought* you, *Strangers* and he *gathered* you, *Enemies* and he *Reconciled* you, *Sinners* and he *Saved* you ; what could the Lord *do more* for you ? Mountains are fallen, the Earth is melted, the Devourer is spoil'd, for *against the mighty hath the Lord appeared*, and his work hath been prosperous in his hand, he hath brought death upon the *first man*, and all *his deeds* he hath destroyed, he hath quickned the *second*, and in his power he is raised, and in glory is his *only begotten* come into the world, and unto him must the gathering be ; you are blessed in whom he is revealed, who feels your *Union* with his *Life*, and your *Translation* into his *Likeness* ; abide with him, depart not from him, for there is not another that *can save*, or *can refresh* the wearied ones, for many have forsaken him, and have not continued faithful to him, though for a time they followed him, and whil'st they did abide was faithful in him, *but when Tribulation came they started aside*, and is turned into a *withered branch*, for they could not abide the *Judgement*, nor the *straitness* of the way to walk in, but sought for *ease* and a *carnal liberty*, and so departed from the Lord after they was *Enlightened*, and of his *Word* and *Power* *tasted*, and having *Erred* from the *Right Way*, they have been again *Entangled*, and a yoke of bondage is come upon their *necks*, so hath the Enemy wrought upon them, and drawn them from the needful thing, that no *Life* is possessed, nor *Power* enjoyed, but *Antichrist Exalted*, and the *Temple* filled with a dry spirit, that deadness and drowsiness is over the living, the oyl being stopt, the spirit of slumber entred, & the Lamp is filled with it, that when he comes he is not *regarded*, nor no *Readiness* to receive him, for there is no delight in *waiting* for him, so have many lost their *First Love*, and are *Erred* from the *Way of Life*.

Oh Friends ! there was a time in which he was more *precious* unto you, when in the *day* he *called* you, and in his love did *visit* you, then was your *hearts upright* towards him, and your

joy did abound in him, that you could have left *all* to follow him, and *nothing* was deare unto you for his sake; then was the Oyl powred forth freely, and the savour of it was sweet unto you, and your Lamps in brightness burned in that day, and Life and Power you truly enjoyed, and in sweet tenderness you was alwaies kept, waiting his presence in you to feel, and the brightness of his glory to behold, your earnest was so much unto him, that nothing could satisfie but the enjoyment of him; Oh how sweet was his Word unto you in that Day, how was you quickened and enlarged in it, that you could have run and not been weary, such was your delight in his Commandements, how did you then attend to his Counsel, and from his mouth received Instruction, it was your Meat and Drink to do his Will, whilst the tenderness did abide upon you, and that which God had raised was fresh and living in you, then was your eye kept single to him, and was not after other Lovers, your delight was in him placed, and in sweet Union with his Life you lived, in the measure which then you had received, and therein was your lives refreshed, and every morning your strength renewed, that there was not then a feeble Person, nor no weariness nor faintness was upon you, but the living Power quickned, and revived you, and a sweet savour of life was then felt amongst you: Oh consider! for it was better with many in that day, then now, who have forsaken their first Love, and are again come under the veil, and doth not feel the springs of life in freshness, to keep them awake and living unto God; Oh come within my Friends, for this Book is opened to be read, divide a right, feel in the Power, see to the Root what springs up, what is the fruit, taste and see how it is, search to the bottom, mind Gods Witness, it will not deceive you, it will let you all see your conditions plainly, it will not bring one thing to Light, and hide another, but it will bring all up, that you may read thorow with an understanding, from the first day untill now, for the Witness is true, and will bear witness unto the Truth in all, and what is out of the Truth it will reprove without respect of Persons; so may all see your present states, as the witness is minded and taken heed unto, and it will keep all down to the measure of Truth, and then none will seem to be above what they are: And upon whomsoever the Witness smites, hearken to it,

it, and as it opens your present states, *turn not away your ear*, that whoever have *erred*, and from your *first Love* departed, may again *return*: Oh he is near you, he waits for you, come, he will not *Reject* you, but will *freely heal* you, for yet is the *Day* of his *Mercy* to you; for verily many are cooled, and many slumber, who in the day of *tenderneſs* truly tasted of the *Word* and *Power*, from which the Oyl was poured forth that caused their Lamps to bear a *glorious ſhew*; and this is a *Lamentation* in *Iſrael* this day, the glory thereof in many ſeems to *fade*, and a dry covering comes over in its *place*, all may read as you mind the *Light*, ſo will every one know your preſent ſtates, for the eyes of many hath been abroad, and things hath been looked at and reaſoned about, and in the viſible the mind hath run, untill the *Vail* hath been ſecretly drawn, that fears hath *entered*, and their faith *Surprized*, and then hath *wavered*, that they have been driven back and their ſtrength *ſpoiled*, and ſo are many gone aſtray, and neither finds ſprings nor paſture: So all be diligent, ſearch out the *Matter*, the *Light* will find it where it is, and let all ſee where you are, and what you ſeed upon, for the Fathers *Love* ſends to you all, that the *ſtrayed* may be *gathered*, and the *faithful eſtabliſhed*, and though there may be ſome which will not hearken, yet ſhall *Iſraels glory ſtand*, and all that are willing thither to come, though you have *erred*, it ſhall not be remembred, but the healing virtue of *life* you ſhall *all taſte and ſee*; Oh hearken, come, delay not, the *Matter* is *weighty*.

And all you dear and tender ones, born of the *Immortal ſeed*, ſweet and pretious are you *all*, the *Fountain* opens freely unto you, the *Fathers love* cannot hold from you, for you are his own, he hath *Chosen* you, and over you is his Arm ſtretched out, your *feet* ſtands in a *ſure place*, and your *Foundation* none can *remove*, happy are you that be in ſuch a caſe, yea bleſſed for ever, who hath *choſen the Lord* to be your *God*, you have ſtood in the *Judgement*, and in the *Croſs* hath walked, and nothing could turn your *feet aſide*, you have not been *Entangled* though often *allured*, you have been kept out of the *Fowlers net*, and from him have you been *preſerved*, ſo in your ſtations you have ſtood, and hath not ſwarved from the *Lord*, but in his *Power* hath been *kept*, and your Integrity you have *Retained*;  
you



you are the living branches who in the *Immortal* knowes your *Life*, your *Leafe* shall not *wither*, neither shall your *Blossom* *fade*, but glorious shall your *Fruit* be, for in the *River of Pleasure* your *Root* is placed, he hath weaned you from the world his *life* to *delight* in; he feeds you dayly with the fatness of his *House*, and gives you to drink of his *Fulness* freely; Oh what is like unto your *Portion*, ye tender *Plants*, your *Bread* is sure, and your *Water* faileth not, your dwelling place is full of *Pleasantness*, and your peace no man can *take away*, the Lord hath formed you in the womb, and in his *Power* hath brought you forth, to make you a *Holy People* to himself, and a *Generation* to take delight in; Children of his *Love* you are, and his mercy is *Endless* unto you, his *Seed* he hath raised in you to *Raign*, and made you *Subjects* to his *Power*, in the *Covenant of Life* he hath *Sealed* you up, and who shall separate you from his *Love*? Who is sufficient for these things? or, Who can shew forth his *Mightie acts*? Oh let not his mercies be forgotten, nor his loving kindness slip out of your *minds*, for his own *Arm* hath wrought his *Work*, and in his *Power* you have been made to *stand*, else had you been as others are, for no *Tempration* but is *Common*, and none can *stand* but in his *Power*, for he alone is *Israels keeper*, therefore the *Boaster* is *Excluded*, and all the *loftie* is cast down, who in their *Disference* seems to *Glory*, and smites at others who in some things may *Differ* from them, and would have none come near to them but such as in the *likeness* of their *Holiness* doth appear, and who appears not with them, such they *Judge*, and who *Receives* and *owns* them, such is there *Love* unto in the *affection*, and so runs into a *Self-separation* and *particular Union*, and this doth not refresh the *Seed*, nor travails not to set it free.

Oh dear Friends, watch over this *Spirit*, that it may not have a place in any of you to *Rule*, for the *Fruit* of it is *Bitterness*, and the *End* of it is *Desolation*, therefore be you all stayed in the pure measure of the *Love* of God *Received*, that therein you may bind & heal, cherish and succour every breathing desire that thirsts after the *Lord God*, not looking at the appearance, nor Judging according to that, but to feel in the measure of the *Love* and *Life*, the true state of every one, and so to divide aright, that however any do appear, the *Cry* of the *Immortal*

may



may be felt, and the state thereof truly *Discerned*, that you may reach forth an Arm to all that stand in need, and do good to all in tenderness, alwayes considering what makes you to differ, for verily Friends the Lords dear Seed breaths after him out of all *Forms* and *Appearances*, and he is gathering and bringing forth a *People* out of the *Traditions*, who cannot live any longer therein, such is the Earnest after God in many this *Day*, unto whom his tender *Visitation of Love is Reached forth*; so put not a difference in *Forms & Appearances*, but in their true ground where the difference stands, that betwixt the births you may truly divide, for the least breathing after God in *Tenderness* is to be *Cherished in all*, under what *Form* or *Appearance* soever they do yet abide, & the Lord is gathering a *People* in his *Mercy* out of all *Professions*; to make them partakers of his *living Truth*, whose understandings he is opening, to behold the wonderful things that he is bringing to passe in this *Day*; so let your bowels be open unto all, that in the *Love* wherewith the *Father* hath loved you, and gathered you, in the same *Love* according to the measure, you may reach to the *Seed of God in all*, that every tender Plant may be refreshed, and all the weak and feeble may be strengthened and comforted, that every one in their measures may be considered, and as they stand Faithful unto God therein, even so to be nourished and tendered in *Love*, that all may be brought to a measure of *God in themselves*, and every one therein to feel there *Union* with God and one another, that so all Friends who are gathered into Gods *Truth* this *Day*, may be Translated into his *likeness*, and bear his *Image*, who is *Love*, for he hath opened his *Love* in freeness to you, and hath largely ministred forth of the Riches of it, and this he doth require, that you should *Love one another* in that *Love* wherewith he hath loved you, and this will make you glorious as this covering is received upon you, and by it shall all men know that you are true followers of him, whose Name you profess, for it draws you near him, and unites you to him, and makes your truly like him, and it will close you all up in the *puritie* of it self, and Unite you perfectly together, and preserve you all in *tenderness* to God and one another, that there will not be an *Evil Eye* amongst you, but the *Strong* will bear with the *Weak*, and not seek so much to please themselves, and this is that which

troty bears, and endures all things, and travails to remove burdens, and to ease the oppressed, Cherishing that which breathes in all, but cannot hurt it in any. Oh waite dear Friends in the Love of the Father to abide, for it is a sweet thing for brethren there to dwell, and let us consider one another, that we may provoke one another more unto love, until it be our garment to cover us throughout, that nakedness may not appear in any, so will all be healers and not burters, nourishers, and not destroyers, and this is well pleasing unto the Lord, and a service that is accepted of him, for it is the travail of the Seed to set free, and to bring out of all straitness, that Unity may be held and Increased, and every Plant may be preserved, and all the Body kept in sweet order, that every Member may feel its Union with the Head, and there Receive its nourishment, so will a supply be ministered unto that part which lacketh, and every Member will stand serviceable in its place, and bear its proper office in the Body, and none to say to each other, I have no need of thee, but all to stand in the pure Unity of Life it self, and there perfectly joyed in the one heart, so will the Lords Name be one, and his People one, and his service and Worship one, and this will keep all in a sweet savour unto God, and a deareness and tenderness one towards another, and unto this hath the Lord called you, wait for the increase of it more amongst you, that love unfeignedly may abound, and the life of Righteousness may stand in Dominion, that so for the soul you may all watch, and with a tender eye be careful one over another, that the Body may truly edifie it self in Love, and all may receive comfort one of another, then will the Lord of Life delight in you, and dwell amongst you, and water you dayly in his fresh Springs, and seed you with the Heritage of Jacob for ever.

Oh dear Lambs, prize the Lords Mercies over all, for unto a high calling he hath called you, be single unto him, that his Love you may answer in walking worthy of all his Mercies, so in his Power he will preserve, and with his Arm defend, that no weapon formed against you shall prosper, for his care is over his own, and unto his Chosen doth his Love reach, for a good Shepherd he is over his Flock, always taking care for them, he leads them where good Pasture is, he feeds them with the choicest food, his Rod is alwaies stretched forth, and in it doth their Comfort

Comfort stand, his *Staffe* is near them to defend, that the *Devil* cannot *Spoil*, nor with his teeth make them a *prey*, he stands by them in the *Day*, and in the *Night* he leaves them not, for *Israels* keeper doth not *slumber*; you are his *Chosen*, his *Flock*, his *People*, who are of the *immortal* born, your place is safe, your strength is sure, abide within and in the *Life* be ever stayed, for in your *Tent* you rest in *Peace*, and blessed are you for evermore.

And let not that eye be opened which would be looking forth, but in your *Tent* abide with God, that in his gathering you may *Stand*, and in his *Rest* your dwelling-place may be; and heed not man, nor his doings, for some hath been hurt with looking there, and hath lost their *union* with the *Life*, having looked so much *Abroad*, untill they have suffered loss at *Home*, and whilst the eye hath thus beheld, it hath been dazed more and more, and when the end could not be seen, then in the astonishment they have sunk down and into much sorrow have been plunged; let not your minds be so *abroad*, but keep your habitation *within*, and see mans time and day, and what it is, and neither regard his *Way* nor *Doings*, for if he do well he is *Accepted*, but if evil he will be *Scourged*, for man is not to be heeded, for the Lord is above him and all his waies, and hath his heart in his hand, and at his pleasure can turn it, and what comes to pass is by his *Permission*, and unto all that love him it works for good; therefore let none say, why has not the Lord done this? or, why is it thus come to pass? but all know your gathering unto God, and with him abide, and let *patience* be your covering, and meekness the girdle of your loynes, for the Lord hath a work to do and it must be done by whom he will, if he bring up the *ASSYRIAN* to be a *Rock*, and make the *CALDEANS* an overflowing *Scourge*, who shall say unto him, why dost thou so? they have their ruler, he layes them by, and they pass away, that all may know there is a God in *Israels*.

Oh dear hearts, be ye all *faithful* unto the Lord God, for large is his *Love* towards you, he will not leave you nor forsake you, but will stand by you, and deliver you out of all your troubles, for he is *Israels* strength, and the *Redemption* of his *Chosen* ones, trust in his almightie, and in his *Power* believe, for he is able to *Save*, though the *Destroyer* pursue; and violently as-

sault, yet is he near to be a present help unto you, infinite is his *Loving Kindness* unto you, who are upright in heart, his *Arm* hath gathered you, his *Arm* preserves and saves you, that the wicked one doth not touch you, he hath *Succoured* and *Relieved* you, when the *storm* hath blown sore upon you, he hath quieted the *Wind* and the *Sea* when it hath *Raged* to overwhelm you, his everlasting *Power* you have felt, and his renewed *Mercies* from day to day: Oh wait in the *Light* that all his *Mercies* you may read, and every *Visitacion* of his *Tender Love* may be alwaies fresh upon your *hearts*, that you may be kept sensible of his everlasting *Kindness*, and manifold *Mercies* from time to time bestowed: You are the blessed of the Lord, who in his *Power* are kept *Faithful*, and have not *Erred* from his way, though often tempted, yet by him preserved, that your *Confidence* in his *Power* doth abide, which gives you victory over all the *Powers of Darkness*, for in you is the seed of *Life* raised, who is both *Lord* and *King*, and though the *Enemy* do pursue you, and casts floods of wrath and fury after you, yet in the *Authority* and *Power* of your *King* you have *Dominion* over him, therefore look not at *Temptations* when they come, but keep your eye to the Lord, and be stayed in that which doth discover them, so will he make away for you to escape them, and keep up your Heads above them, and though your troubles may be great, yet will the Lord deliver you out of all, and through the Exercise of *Faith* and *Patience* he will establish you in his *Holy Hill*, and Seal you up in the *Covenants of Eternal life*, there to rest in the bosome of his dear *Love* for evermore!

So let not the thing seem small in your eyes, for it is the *Arm* of his *Mercy*, which unto you hath reached, therefore above all things to be prized, that you should be called and conated worthy to believe in his *Holy Name*, and in his everlasting *Truth* revealed, and also overcome by him to be followers of him in *Love*, and to know the operation of his *Power*, by which your minds are renewed, and Translated into a measure of his *pure Life*, which in you is made manifest by the *Revelation* of *Jesus Christ*, who in you hath appeared *Sin* to destroy, and *Everlasting Righteousness* to bring in, of which you are partakers through the *Riches of his Grace* by *Faith*, wherein ye stand: The everlasting God of *Life* and *Power* keep

keep you all, who in the measure of love received, lives up in the pure obedience to answer the Lords kindness, dayly waiting upon him, that in his wisdom all the works of his hands may be ordered to his everlasting praise.

And all Dear Friends, who in the Lord service stands to bear forth a Testimony in bonds and sufferings, or any other way therein do witness to the Truth of God in your measures, and against all *Disceit, Oppression, Cruelty, and Wrong, a Visitation of the Fathers Love* reacheth unto you all; Oh feel the *living Power* your Souls to refresh, and your strength dayly to Renew, that none may be weary or faint in your minds, but all in faithfulness may be upheld to God, keep your eye out of the world and those things which you have *left behind*, for thither will the Enemy oft be drawing and enticing your minds, to Entangle you, but all be watchful that out of his *Snares* you may be kept, for the Lord is exercising your *patience*, to wean you from the love of the World, and all the things that is in it, that your *Part and Portion* may be in his *Life*, and your hearts in him alone may *delight*, that for his sake all other things may be given up freely into his *Will*, that nothing may be a *Bondage* to the *Just*, or *Imprison* the *Righteous Seed*, but that in his *Power* he may *Raign*, all other things to put under his *Feet*, that nothing may be a Cumber to your mind, so will your bonds be sweet unto you, and *work together for your good*, for dear is the *Fathers love* unto you, his living presence wait to feel, and that will make your *Consolation* to abound, above all your *Sufferings*, and lift you up over all that would cast you down, and in waiting the Lord will give you *strength* to bear, and *patience* to endure, untill *Iniquity* have had its day, and the *Sufferings* be filled up.

And be contented with your present states, and none grudge or murmur in your minds, but all stand *freely given up*, that you may willingly serve the Lord in what he calls unto, or permits to come upon you, so will his *Blessing and Peace* abide with you for *Ever*.

For now is the Lord trying all the wayes and doings of the Children of men, and what is not of *Him* must fall before *Him*, for he will not spare the Evil doer, though for a time he may go on, and boast himself against the Lord, and persecute those that fears his Name, yet his *End* must come, and his *Wickedness* upon his head will fall, and as a whirlwind from the Almighty it will light upon him,



him; and as the *Summer chaff* he will be driven away, and be no more, for the Lord is hastening and cutting the work short in *Righteousness*; therefore fear not your adversaries, nor who, or what they be that turns against you, for it is an evident token unto them of perdition, but to you of *salvation* and that of *God*; for many have already had *their day*, and the Lord hath tryed them what they would doe, and they have all betrayed their trust, and turned against his *Power*; and none that have been *Faithful* to him, for he tryed them all, and gave to each of them *their Day*, but none regarded what was put into their *hands*, but carelessly neglected it, so he pulled down one, and he set up another, and as their zeal did arise, and that they came to *Profess* more then others before them, he gave unto them *their Day*, and tryed them if they would perform what they *Professed*, but they have been all found *Deceitful*; and as bitter fruit did spring from such as did *Profess*, as from those that was pulled down before them; and nothing hath been done by any of them, as to what they might have done, either for *God* or his *People*, but from one to another the *Yoke* hath been continued, and the *Spirit of Persecution* hath Reigned, and the *loyns* of one hath been as heavy as the *loyns* of another, and none that did regard the *Cry* of the afflicted; wherefore the Lord hath removed them, and given *their Day* into the hands of others, whom he hath brought up to be a scourge unto them, and a Cloud to cover them, for the Lord tryed them *All*, if any could have been found amongst them that would have done good, that he might have placed them, and set them up in *Power* to have *Ruled*, but they all proved *Corrupted*, and none performed when they was Intrusted, but went backward and drew downward, and forgot the *Lord* and his *Benefits*, turning one against another for *self Interests*, and then strive and contended, until the *Lords Spirit* was grieved and vexed in beholding their *Wickedness*, and his *Wrath* kindled against them, and he stretched out his *Arm* and overturned them, and hath brought up a *People* to be a *Just Recompence* unto them, and a Cloud over them, under which their *Sun* is set.

What is *Man* or his way that he should be feared? though he see himself on *High* and *Boast* of great things, the Lord *Rules* over him, and in a moment brings him down, and all his glory passeth away as *smoke*, if he do not the thing that is *Just*, the *Righteous* God finds him out, and layes him naked to all *passers by*, what-



whatever he may *profess*, and so the inside of many are discovered in this *Day of Tryal*, who professed much, and boasted of great things, but when they were tried, then they betrayed and brought forth *nothing* but their own *deceitful Workings*, neither regarding the Lord, nor fearing his Name; so he laid them all by as *Useless* in his *Service*, and hath stained the pride of their glory, that man in all his profession may behold what he is, for all their *Professions* is brought to Light, and none hath done the thing that is *right*, therefore are they smitten, & their Foundation shaken, that fear on every side *sakes hold* upon them, & like blind men they grope & cannot find a *resting-place*, for their way is *closed up*; and they have lost their *aim*, and are all *Scattered*, that many are turned into that way again which once they departed from, and contended against, and hath lost the favour of all that which seemingly they once *Professed*; and thus hath the Lord God in a little time tried the ways and doings of many of the *Children of men*, and in the *Ballance of Truth* hath weighed them and their *Professions*, and hath found them as *light as Vanity*, and as *Airy Shadows* they are passed away, and are all dead and withered, as if they had never been, and now is he trying *others*. So dear *Lambs*, all in Gods *Power* wait, which through all changeable things abides, and do not depart from it at any time, for in that have you been kept in *Faithfulness* to stand, that you are not *shaken*, nor driven away from your *Hope & Confidence*, but still abides in *Uprightness* to the *Truth of God*, feeling the sure *Foundation* which no man can *shake* or *prevail* against; this is to be prized by you in the pure fear, and not to be gloried in with a *fleshly confidence*, for it is the *Lords own work*, and it is *marvellous to behold*, that you who are so much by men *despised*, should in Gods *Arm* be still *Preserved*, and are not *shaken* from your *Hope*; though many *storms* have blown upon you; Oh feel the *Living* in which you are *upheld*, that faithful to the end you may be kept, for waiting so to be preserved, you shall be everlastingly saved, and glorious will your *Reward* be, for the *Winter* is not yet quite over, though many *storms* hath sorely beat, yet there is some will still *arise*, and many will vanish in their *appearance*, but some will *fall* and shall be *felt*, and in their time they will be quick; for all is drawing near an *End*, but the glorious *Life* none can *destroy*; therefore look not at man for he hath been *tried*, and is manifest to be *Corrupted*, and all his ways

perverse.

*perverse and froward*, and nothing else from man can be expected, until he come to a measure of Gods *Spirit* to be *guided*; so what may appear from man do not you regard, or whether it seem with you or against you, let not your minds *look after it*, but dwell in Gods *Power*, and if he work for you, and turn many hearts to do something that is *right*; let all flesh be silent, and all boasting excluded, that God in his own work may be *Gloryfied*; and if any thing from man appear against you, keep to the *Power* to *preserve* you, and in the measure of that *pure Eternal Life* be ye all stayed, for there is *Safety*, there is *Peace*, *Satisfaction* and *eternal Rest*; and in that abiding, you will all be kept from *Fainting* or *Falling*, and your strength daily will be *renewed*, and your hearts *always enlarged*, the way of his *Command* to *run*, and *nothing* will be grievous to you; so will the *Truth* be gloriously *exalted*, and the Lords name *honoured*, who is over all for evermore blessed.

Oh tender *Babes*, sweet is your savour, you give a pleasant smell; be ye all clothed with a *Low*, *Meek*, and *Quiet Spirit*, and in the *stillness* wait to receive your Portion; and in the coolness drink of the River of his Pleasure, for his *Mercy endures for ever*, and his *Bountifullness* is opened freely, all the fresh *springs* are in him, and his own *Right Hand* gives *daily Bread*. Oh seed in the Pasture of *Life*, that in the tenderness you may daily *grow*, feeling the sweet refreshings of his *living presence*, and in the life of *Righteousness* bear his Image, and so will your Ornament *adorn the Gospel*, and *Beautiful* will you be in the eyes of all *Beholders*: And the Lord of *Life* and *Power* season you all continually, *Confirm*, *Strengthen*, and *Establish* you daily, that *High* and *Low*, *Bond* and *Free*, *Male* and *Female*, may evermore feel your *Union* in the *Life of Truth*, that with one accord we may lift up our voice to *Magnify his Name together*, who is over all *Gods* and *Kings*, alone worthy to be praised and glorified for *Ever and Ever*.

*Grace, Mercy and Peace, be unto you all, from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Dear *Lambs*, my Life breaths after you, and with you it is wrapped up, either to rejoice or suffer in the will of God.

Your Dear Brother in the Immortal.

William Smith.

T H E E N D.

